

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A storage and retrieval unit for transporting goods from or into a shelf in a commissioning system, the unit comprising:

a vertical mast;

a longitudinal drive connected to the mast for longitudinal displacement and longitudinal positioning of the vertical mast at a site of operation of the shelf on the shelf front or the shelf rear;

a height-adjustable goods receiver provided at the vertical mast, said vertical mast comprising an articulated mast with a joint and a guide/readjusting device with articulated rods including an articulated oscillating crank, said articulated mast being pivotable about said joint such that said articulated mast is deflected which makes possible a deflection of the articulated mast in the direction of longitudinal displacement, ~~and a guide/readjusting device with articulated rods including an articulated oscillating crank; said articulated oscillating crank being pivotable about a horizontal axis such that said articulated oscillating crank~~ [[which]] returns the articulated mast into the normal position upon a guided deflection of the articulated mast from the vertical normal position for stabilization at the deflectable longitudinal end of the articulated mast.

2. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein the joint is located in the area of the longitudinal drive.

3. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein the longitudinal drive is arranged in the area of an upper or lower mast end wherein the articulated mast is suspended on an upper chassis or is supported at a lower chassis.

4. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide/readjusting device has another longitudinal drive wherein the longitudinal drives may be operated synchronously.

5 5. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 4, wherein the two longitudinal drives are operated synchronously such that the articulated mast is arranged vertically during the normal operation of a longitudinal displacement of the storage and retrieval unit, and that guided deflection of the articulated mast takes place in case of an emergency stop of the storage and retrieval unit.

6. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide/readjusting device comprises an elastic readjusting means.

7. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein the goods receiver is adjustable in height at the articulated mast and is located in the area of the joint for the longitudinal displacement of the storage and retrieval unit to a site of operation of the shelf on the shelf front or on the shelf rear.

8. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 3, wherein the upper and/or lower chassis is/are guided in a nontilting manner in rails.

9. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 8, wherein the rails are integrated parts of the shelf.

10. (Currently Amended) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 3, wherein the chassis has at least four axes with [[said]] end-side rollers, which are guided in [[said]] rails in a nontilting manner, wherein two axes each are arranged as an axis pair one on top of another and the two axis pairs are located at horizontally spaced locations from one another at a ~~short distance (d), preferably at a~~ distance (d) corresponding to 2 to 3 times the diameter of the roller.

11. (Currently Amended) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 10, wherein the chassis has an electric drive of its own with a friction wheel [[[17)]] as a driving wheel, which meshes with one of the rails in a rolling-driving manner.

12. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein the articulated mast or the joint of the articulated mast, has a blocking device, which prevents deflection of the articulated mast up to a mast load limit value and permits deflection of the articulated mast when the mast load limit value is exceeded.

13. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 11, wherein the mast has a load limit value that can be set.

14. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 12, wherein the mast load limit value is a lateral force limit value of the articulated mast or an acceleration/deceleration limit value of the longitudinally displaceable storage and retrieval unit.

15. (Previously Presented) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide/readjusting device comprises, a bent guide, comprising a sliding guide with lateral sliding blocks at the deflectable end of the articulated mast, which makes possible an exact bent guiding of the deflectable end of the articulated mast during unhindered deflection of the articulated mast along the arc and clearance-free guiding in the transverse direction.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for longitudinally positioning [[the]] a storage and retrieval unit at a site of operation of [[the]] a shelf ~~in accordance with one of the claims 1 through 15, the method~~ comprising:

providing a vertical mast as an articulated mast with a joint allowing a deflection of the articulated mast in the direction of longitudinal displacement and a guide/readjusting device with articulated rods including an articulated oscillating crank pivotable about a horizontal axis;

providing a longitudinal drive connected to the mast for longitudinal displacement and longitudinal positioning of the vertical mast at a site of operation of the shelf on the shelf front or the shelf rear;

providing a height-adjustable goods receiver;

operating the longitudinal drive or said longitudinal drives is/are operated such that the articulated mast is arranged vertically in a vertical position during normal operation of a longitudinal displacement of the storage and retrieval unit; and

moving said articulated oscillating crank such that said articulated oscillating crank provides a providing guided deflection of the articulated mast and guided return of the articulated mast in case of an emergency stop of the storage and retrieval unit, wherein said articulated mast is maintained in a normal position via said articulated oscillating crank.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for longitudinally positioning the storage and retrieval unit at a site of operation of the shelf, , the method comprising the steps of:

providing a vertical mast as an articulated mast with a joint allowing a deflection of the articulated mast in the direction of longitudinal displacement and an articulated mast moving means for controlling an angular position of said articulated mast such that said articulated mast moves from a deflected position to a guide/readjusting device ~~with articulated rods and/or an articulated oscillating crank, which returns the articulated mast into the normal position upon a guided deflection of the articulated mast from the vertical normal position for stabilization at the deflectable longitudinal end of the articulated mast;~~

10 providing a longitudinal drive connected to the mast for longitudinal displacement and longitudinal positioning of the vertical mast at a site of operation of the shelf on the shelf front or the shelf rear;

providing a height-adjustable goods receiver;

15 displacing the storage and retrieval unit linearly in the longitudinal direction of the shelf from a resting starting position of the shelf in an accelerated manner to a selected site of operation of the shelf and in a decelerated manner before the site of operation is reached in such a way that the articulated mast is deflected in a guided manner during at least part of the accelerated and/or decelerated motion and is again returned in a guided manner into the aligned vertical normal position at least during stoppage of the storage and retrieval unit via said articulated mast moving means.
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18. (New) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein said oscillating crank pivots from a first oscillating crank position to a second oscillating crank position, said mast being in an angular position when said oscillating crank is in said first oscillating crank position, said mast being in said normal position when said second oscillating crank is in said second oscillating crank position.
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19. (New) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 16, wherein said oscillating crank pivots from a first oscillating crank position to a second oscillating crank position, said mast being in an angular position when said oscillating crank is in said first

oscillating crank position, said mast being in said normal position when said second oscillating
5 crank is in said second oscillating crank position.

20. (New) A storage and retrieval unit in accordance with claim 17, wherein said articulated mast moving means includes an articulated oscillating crank, said oscillating crank pivoting from a first oscillating crank position to a second oscillating crank position, said mast being in an angular position when said oscillating crank is in said first oscillating crank
5 position, said mast being in said normal position when said second oscillating crank is in said second oscillating crank position.